

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 01489 041719Z

67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 041647Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2802

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1489

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, CU

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA SAYS INVITATION TO CASTRO STILL OPEN

REF: A) MEXICO 1350; B) MEXICO 1488

1. FOLLOWING CHRISTENING CEREMONIES AT COZUMEL FEB 2 FOR TWENTY FISHING BOATS JUST OBTAINED FROM CUBA (REFTEL B), PRES ECHEVERRIA WAS ASKED BY NEWSMEN ABOUT THE STATUS OF FIDEL CASTRO'S PROPOSED VISIT HERE. HIS REPLY: "WE'RE WAITING ON HIM TO SET THE DATE . . . IN THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR, WHENEVER IT'S CONVENIENT FOR HIM. MEXICO IS LOOKING FORWARD TO RECIPROCATING THE WARM WELCOME WHICH THE PEOPLE OF CUBA GAVE, WITH OPEN HEARTS, TO THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO."

2. COMMENT: REMARKS DO NOT OF COURSE SQUARE WITH ECHEVERRIA'S PRIVATE MESSAGE TO US (REFTEL A) THAT CASTRO HAD CANCELLED PLANS TO VISIT HERE AND THAT ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF WAS PLEASED WITH THE DECISION. ASSUME FOREGOING IS NOTHING MORE THAN WINDOWDRESSING, PENDING FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM HAVANA THAT TRIP IS OFF (AND OF COURSE SUITABLE EXPRESSIONS OF DISAPPOINTMENT FROM MEXICO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO01489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760043-0267
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760283/aaaacvgz.tel
Line Count: 49
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 MEXICO 1350, 76 MEXICO 1488
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECHEVERRIA SAYS INVITATION TO CASTRO STILL OPEN
TAGS: PFOR, MX, CU, (CASTRO RUZ, FIDEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006